

Introduction

Background

Transportation conformity is an ever-changing field of expertise and can be a complicated process, even for experienced staff and other stakeholders. Major challenges include revised National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), new emissions models, and revised federal technical and policy guidance. However complicated, federally approved transportation conformity determinations are critical to keeping the Arizona Department of Transportation's (ADOT's) Plans, Programs and Projects moving. *The Arizona Department of Transportation Air Quality Guidebook for Transportation Conformity* (Guidebook) represents a comprehensive document designed to assist ADOT in simplifying the transportation conformity process by organizing, updating and streamlining current transportation and air quality conformity procedures. The Guidebook was created as

1. A tool for technical staff that can be used to conduct transportation conformity analyses, aid in the determination process, assess the benefits of SIP elements, and identify emission reduction projects to fulfill NAAQS requirements.
2. A directional resource for applicable transportation and air quality conformity guidance, regulations and policies. The Guidebook contains detailed examples and resources, but it also leads users to resources that cannot be completely covered here, are tangentially related, or that may change over time.
3. An example that can be followed each time a conformity analysis is performed. The Nogales Case Study is designed as a model to assist state and local stakeholders and staff through the conformity process from interagency consultation to technical analysis.

The Guidebook was developed through a series of webinars and meetings involving ADOT and stakeholder participation and is comprised of two primary pieces: 1.) a compilation of final working papers and 2.) a case study of the Nogales PM nonattainment area.

As working papers were developed, and stakeholder outreach was conducted, it was determined that definitive conformity process requirements were not practicable for incorporation into the Guidebook at this time. As a result, the chapters/working papers, where applicable, outline several potential approaches. The ADOT/stakeholder preferred approach or recommendation is described and, if appropriate, demonstrated in the Nogales Case Study.

Organization of the Guidebook

The Guidebook is organized into 5 primary Chapters. Each Chapter is representative of a final working paper and a one-stop shop for information. Accordingly, each Chapter has been authored as a stand-alone document. The remainder of the Guidebook is organized as follows:

1. **Air Quality Background:** This chapter provides a brief history of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and how they have applied to and changed throughout the state. Chapter 1 includes background on pertinent federal regulations and the basics of transportation conformity.

2. **Interagency Consultation (ICG):** Chapter 2 provides a review of Arizona's existing requirements and other state's approaches to the ICG process, with the focus on the goal of developing a Conformity SIP for federal approval.
3. **Conformity procedures:** This chapter provides recommendations for conducting transportation regional and project-level conformity analyses in areas outside of the MAG region. In addition, Chapter 3 includes an overview of relevant modeling tool and an assessment of Arizona's past analysis procedures.
4. **Mitigation & Transportation Control Measures (TCMs):** Chapter 4 outlines the analytical requirements and tools necessary for quantifying the benefits of TCMs. Control measure analysis methods are described in detail and accompanied by example calculations.
5. **Nogales PM₁₀ / PM_{2.5} Nonattainment Area Case Study:** The case study illustrates how to utilize the recommend approaches described in Chapter 1 through Chapter 4 via step-by-step examples for the Nogales area.

Appendix Documents

- A. Nonattainment and Maintenance Area Maps and Current SIP Status Tables
 - A-1: Statewide Nonattainment and Maintenance Area Maps & Statewide SIP Status Table
 - A-2: MPO / COG Nonattainment and Maintenance Area Maps & SIP Status Tables
 - A-3: Nonattainment and Maintenance Area Maps by Pollutant
- B. Interagency Consultation Materials
 - B-1: Checklist for Developing a Conformity SIP and Comparison between the Federal Conformity Rule and Arizona Administrative Code
 - B-2: Arizona Air Quality Agency Planning & Implementation Responsibilities
 - B-3: SouthEastern Arizona Governments Organization Annual Work Program (State Fiscal Year 2014)
- C. ADOT Draft Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Guidelines and Procedures for PM_{2.5} Nonattainment Areas
- D. Nogales, Arizona Transportation Control Measures Calculation Workbook